

Message Text

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TO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 112293

FOR MAY 3 NAC MEETING

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, XM

SUBJECT: NATO EXPERTS REPORT ON LATIN AMERICAN SITUATION-
HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: (A) USNATO 4272 (B) STATE 111030

1. IN LOOKING OVER AGAIN EXPERT'S REPORT ON LATIN
AMERICA IT OCCURS TO US THAT ADDITIONAL TALKING POINTS
ON HUMAN RIGHTS MIGHT BE USEFUL. MISSION MAY DRAW ON
THESE DURING MAY 3 NAC DISCUSSION. ADDITIONAL TALKING
POINTS ON PANAMA WILL BE IN SEPTTEL.

2. HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS CONTINUE TO BE A MAJOR
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PROBLEM IN MUCH OF LATIN AMERICA AND IN USG RELATIONS
WITH SEVERAL LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS. CONTINUED
STRONG EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS THEMES IS PLANNED FOR
FUTURE USG DISCUSSIONS WITH THOSE GOVERNMENTS.
COORDINATION WITH OUR NATO ALLIES CAN BE MOST HELPFUL.
BUT THIS SHOULD BE DONE WITH FULL RECOGNITION OF THE
SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS ALREADY ACHIEVED, PROGRESS WHICH

GIVES AMPLE EVIDENCE THAT MUCH MORE CAN BE DONE. FAILURE TO RECOGNIZE IMPROVEMENTS, AND TO GIVE DUE CREDIT TO THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED, MAY REDUCE THE CHANCES FOR FUTURE PROGRESS.

3. MISSION MAY WANT TO DRAW ON FOLLOWING EXAMPLES IN SUPPLEMENTING ORAL PRESENTATION:

WITH RESPECT TO VIOLATION OF INTEGRITY OF THE PERSON, SOME GOVERNMENTS, WE HOPE WITH A REAL INTENT TO HALT REPRESSION, HAVE BEGUN TO RELEASE LARGE NUMBERS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AS WELL AS TO CURTAIL THE INDISCRIMINATE ARREST OF ALLEGED SUBVERSIVES. WITH RESPECT TO POLITICAL AND CIVIL RIGHTS, ONE CAN PERCEIVE A RESURGENCE OF DEMOCRACY. IN SOME OF THE MILITARY REGIMES IN LATIN AMERICA, THERE ARE HESITANT BUT HOPEFUL SIGNS OF RETORNO--A RETURN TO ELECTED CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT. FOR EXAMPLE, BOLIVIA, PERU, AND ECUADOR HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD IN 1978. IN TWO LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES THE STATE OF SIEGE HAS BEEN LIFTED, AND FOUR LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES HAVE AGREED TO PERMIT AN ON-SITE INVESTIGATION BY THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. SINCE PRESIDENT CARTER SIGNED THE AMERICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS LAST JUNE, FOUR ADDITIONAL COUNTRIES HAVE RATIFIED THAT ACCORD AND
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SEVEN ADDITIONAL COUNTRIES HAVE SIGNED IT. ONE CLEAR EXAMPLE OF PROGRESS IS BOLIVIA, WHERE, IN ADDITION TO THE PENDING ELECTIONS, APPARENTLY ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS WERE RELEASED; EXILES WERE ALLOWED TO RETURN HOME; AND, RESTRICTIONS ON ALL POLITICAL PARTIES WERE LIFTED. IN SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES, EVEN WHILE SERIOUS VIOLATIONS CONTINUE TO OCCUR, THERE HAVE BEEN SOME TENTATIVE RESPONSES TO THE COMMUNICATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS. THESE INCLUDE PRISONERS BEING RELEASED, FREEDOM OF PRESS BEING RESTORED AND IN TWO INSTANCES A STATE OF SIEGE WHICH HAD VOIDED ALL CIVIL AND POLITICAL LIBERTIES BEING REMOVED.

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